



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Colonel Winquist called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:05 a.m. on **June 29, 2023 at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy.**

Colonel Winquist took a roll call. The following POST members were present at the meeting: Colonel Michael Winquist, Chief Elwood Johnson, Colonel Anthony Roberson, Colonel Michael Correia, Chief Tina Goncalves, Shawn Brown and Maria Deaton. A quorum has been met. Colonel Perez and Chief Mello are absent. Also present were Donna Lavalley, Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, Adam Shole, Kate Sabitoni and Paul Dutra,

2. Review & approval of minutes

- Quarterly Meeting – May 18, 2023. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 Quarterly POST meeting; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

3. Review of Lateral Applications:

Colonel Winquist stated that this request is for the lateral of Andrew Dutra from Cumberland PD to Pawtucket PD.. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete and recommends approval. Captain Graham is present and he said a thorough background check was done and he is looking forward to have him on board. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the lateral certification of Andrew Dutra; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor 7-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Jonathan Picard from North Providence PD to Rhode Island College Campus Police. Chief Mendonca is present. Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete pending the Psychological Report. Chief Mendonca stated he received a verbal and will send the Report as soon as he receives it. Colonel Roberson made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Jonathan Picard contingent upon the successful passing and receipt of the Psychological Report; Maria Deaton seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Dana Packer from Lincoln PD to CCRI Campus Police. Noone from CCRI could be present for the meeting but Colonel Winquist stated that the package is complete and nothing is pending. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the Lateral transfer of Dana Packer; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Steven Daigle from RI Marshal's to Charlestown PD. Lieutenant Phil Gingerella is present. Lt. Gingerella explained that he is currently a traffic constable with Charlestown and Richmond PD. Chief Johnson attested to the fact that he is one of the best CSO's he's had and is very reliable. They brought up the fact that the RI Marshal's has been defunct for a long while so was a background performed. Lt. Gingerella said they tracked down as much information as they could going through archives and did a very thorough job. Colonel Winqvist added that his POST certification is in the file. Adam Sholes stated this is a unique situation as he has been away from L.E. for awhile so maybe additional training needed? Lt. Gingerella replied that they will upload his training once aboard. He is not going to be active in patrol but the accreditation standards must be met for him and they plan to complete everything necessary. Chief Johnson recused himself from the vote. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Steven Daigle; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 6-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Mark Bourget from East Providence/East Greenwich to New Shoreham PD. Chief Lynch is present. Colonel Winqvist stated the only thing missing is the Psychological Report. Chief Lynch stated he received a verbal and will send the documentation in as soon as received. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the lateral application for Mark Bourget pending the receipt of a successful Psychological Report; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

The Next lateral application is for Cory Patenaude from Brown University to New Shoreham PD. Colonel Winqvist stated that the package is complete with the exception of the Psychological Report. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Cory Patenaude, pending the receipt of a successful Psychological Report; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Sean Collins from Warwick PD/CCRI to New Shoreham PD. Colonel Winqvist stated that the package is complete with the exception of the Psychological Report. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve the lateral transfer for Sean Collins, pending the receipt of a successful Psychological Report; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Colonel Winqvist reminded everyone that until the Psychological Reports are received by Donna, they are not certified and not allowed to work.

The next lateral application is for Joshua Pelletier from Tiverton PD to East Providence PD. Captain Cadoret is present. Colonel Winqvist stated the packet is complete and nothing further is needed. Chief Correia made a motion to approve the lateral transfer of Joshua Pelletier; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

The next lateral application is for Matthew Braun from Tiverton PD to East Providence PD. Colonel Winqvist stated that the package is complete and nothing further is needed. Maria Deaton made a motion to approve the lateral transfer of Matthew Braun; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

4. Approval of the following Instructor Applications:

- Sergeant Thomas Burns, Cumberland PD-Firearms Instructor
- Officer Steven Langevin, Woonsocket PD-Firearms Instructor

- Lieutenant Antone Souza, Jr., RISD-First Responder

Lieutenant Zarrella stated that Sgt. Burns has withdrawn his application. The other two applicants are more than adequately qualified and he recommends certification. Both curriculum are in serious need of instructors due to retirements, promotions, etc. We have lost key and senior instructors and are looking for replacements. Chief Johnson made a motion to approve Officer Langevin and Lt. Souza; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

5. Approval of Firearms Qualifications Courses

- Bristol Police Department
- Johnston Police Department
- Tiverton Police Department
- West Greenwich Police Department
- Woonsocket Police Depa

Colonel Winquist asked for a motion to approve the above Firearms courses. Lieutenant Zarrella added that all were reviewed and approved. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the above firearms courses; Chief Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

6. Request from Cumberland PD to vote and approve Recruit Nicholas Barone to be permitted to take a re-test (3rd attempt) for the Firearms Qualification/test out

Lieutenant Zarrella explained that Recruit Barone failed two attempts at the Academy for his Firearms Qualification. He was otherwise an exemplary recruit. The Firearms instructors advised that they would have him attend the 80 hour course again and then do his 3rd and final attempt. Lieutenant Zarrella relayed this message to Chief Benson.

Chief Johnson asked Chief Benson why he was struggling? Chief Benson replied that he also struggled with Use of Force and he didn't have enough time to work with his Firearms because of the Use of Force remedial. He feels strongly that he will pass as they've worked with him everyday of the week and he successfully passed yesterday at the Cranston Range with his officers.

Chief Johnson made a motion to allow Nicholas Barone a 3rd and final attempt at the Firearms Qualification at a time and date approved by the Academy; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor-7-0, motion carries.

7. Request from Tiverton PD to vote and approve Recruit Cameron Williams to be permitted to take a re-test (3rd attempt) for the Firearms Qualification/test out

Lieutenant Zarrella stated Cameron Williams was an exceptional recruit with no issues. Chief Jones stated they have been working with him, as well as they sent him to Fit 2 Serve. He feels it was a confidence issue, not the ability to shoot and he is fully confident he will pass. For the record, Lieutenant Zarrella similarly as above gave Chief Jones the options afforded to him and that the Firearms cadre advised he should attend the 80 hour course. Chief Johnson asked if he felt he showed improvement and the Firearms staff of Tiverton PD replied yes, it's like night and day. Chief Johnson further added that if they were to pass, we admire them for their perseverance. Colonel Winquist stated we need good recruits. Chief Johnson made a motion to allow Cameron Williams a 3rd and final attempt at the Firearms Qualification at a time and date approved by the Academy; Chief Correia seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, motion carries.

Lt. Zarrella asked that both departments supply the Academy with their trainings so we can submit to their files.

8. Discussion regarding the Shotgun curriculum

Lieutenant Zarrella explained that the Academy is moving away from the intense Shotgun training as most agencies are moving towards Pistol/Rifle. The Academy decide to continue to train with shotgun but more familiarization training. The training is not as intensive as previously and it allows for more time allocation for Pistol/Taser training. Sergeant Lagor, along with Warwick and Cranston officers, have been instrumental in developing this training.

9. Discussion regarding Pistol Instructor course

Lt. Zarrella explained that the Academy has been adamant of constructing its own Pistol course. Agencies used to use the FBI and they stopped providing the service so it is very costly to use outside venues. Sgt. Lagor spear-headed to identify people who would have the qualifications and time to put together a train-the-trainer Firearms course. They took the existing curriculum (NESPAC), adopted the program and fit to the Rhode Island standards. We are continuing to work on it and getting feedback and will have the finished product to bring to the POST. The question is who is the certifying agent? The POST? RIPCA? DPS? Who put the stamp on it? Once it's completed, would they bring it to the POST to review it. This curriculum should constantly be reviewed and re-tooled. Chief Correia asked if a sub-committee should be appointed. Chief Johnson suggested that being Colonel Weaver is a member of the RIPCA maybe roll it out at a RIPCA meeting. Lt. Zarrella added that this has to happen. We have an immense amount of talent in the State. Why go outside and pay vendors when we have the people here. We are talking about liability and want to be sure all the I's are dotted. Colonel Winkvist asked if he could make the August RIPCA meeting? Lt. Zarrella replied yes and he would be there with Sgt. Lagor.

10. Update on EVOC and Firearms Venue

Lt. Zarrella stated that we no longer have the Cranston Range and will be moving the Firearms instruction to the RISP Academy for the entire 80 hour instruction starting with this class. As for EVOC, we are utilizing the overflow parking lots at Bally's. He gave kudos to Rob Brown and Bob Hopkins for their work. The place is not perfect but meets the standards. There are no guarantees as this is not public property and the hunt or construction of a new EVOC location continues and is a priority. He drafted an RFP for an EVOC site and it went out but he doesn't believe they received a flood of responses.

11. Discussion regarding the application of Psychologist Danielle DeSantis

Colonel Winkvist stated Dr. DeSantis applied to do recruit Psychologic testing. Lieutenant Zarrella was asked to review her application and he did so. He took the IACP best practices and compared it. Her resume is very impressive. She holds credentials in Psych assessments but specific to adolescences and children and therapy to adults specific to relationships. She doesn't have the intensive L.E. training and he cautions the POST in approving this because she lacks that experience with entry level law enforcement. Chief Johnson added that it didn't seem she has experience with L.E. or people with stresses or mental health issues. Chief Correia added if the best practice is 5 years and that has not been met. Lt. Zarrella explained that the policy states 5 years experience in Psychological Assessment in entry level L.E. She basically has none that he could identify and he asks the members to consider what's at stake if you get it wrong for a L.E. officer. He stated that the Chandler agency was very well experienced and he has received no negative remarks. Paul Dutra added that the Chiefs must have the confidence. He brought up Dr. Gallagher and you know what

you're getting with her. Adam Scholes suggested inviting her to a meeting as you did with the Chandler group. Mr. Brown suggested the application should be updated to include 5 years experience. Colonel Winquist stated she will be asked to come to the August meeting.

12. Update on Recruit Class 2023-II

Lt. Zarrella explained that we were up to 100 seat request at one point; however, we are at 65 and everyone got their seats. We only have two waivers so he will see how that training can be put together given the resources. He also encouraged everyone to go look first hand at the facilities they use at Camp Fogarty. Mr. Brown asked what the status of the JTA is? Lt. replied that he drafted the RFP and submitted and it was posted. Adam Scholes added it is progressing and in the budget. Lt. stated he spoke to the curriculum and resources needed to deliver the curriculum. Colonel Winquist stated that the RI Police Chiefs continue to push for feasibility study for a new facility. Chief Johnson asked if the two departments who have waivers can pool their resources and pay instructors to deliver the training to them. Lt. Zarrella replied yes, as long as they are POST-certified instructors and follow our curriculum.

Lt. Phil Gingerella asked to speak on behalf of the facilities. He is a Lead First Responder instructor and he explained how inadequate the facilities are at Fogarty and the Academy needs a home. There is no history there, no home base. It is a military base and you never know day to day where the class may be-he's even had to conduct his class in a Parachute shed. Colonel Winquist agreed that the goal is to get a place. They have met with the Governor and maybe a resolution is needed.

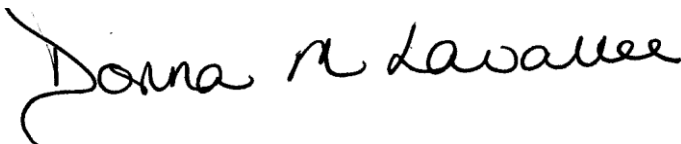
Colonel Winquist also added that two Bills were signed into law this week. One is regarding the Mental Health courses. The law amended to allow CIT people to train and has a lot of options. The other law that passed had to do with Cognitive and Disability Communication and how to recognize the symptoms and how to interact. It is a very broad area to train. He has had a conversation with Lt. Zarrella and asked him to look into best practices and develop a curriculum to train. Chief Johnson said the CIT program is great.

Colonel Winquist asked for input as to the August meeting as there will be none in July. It was decided that August 17 was best for everyone.

13. Adjournment

Chief Correia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 7-0, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant